



## DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 30, 1985

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### SALE OF U.S. COMMEMORATIVE COINS TO AID IN THE RESTORATION OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND ELLIS ISLAND

Washington, D.C. -- The President of the United States signed into law a bill which authorizes the U.S. Department of the Treasury to mint gold and silver coins commemorating the centennial of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. U.S. Treasurer Katherine Ortega and Donna Pope, Director of the U.S. Mint attended the White House signing ceremony. The legislation provides that the proceeds from the sale of these coins will be used to aid in the restoration of the Statue and Ellis Island and establish an endowment to ensure the continued maintenance of these monuments.

In making this announcement, Mrs. Ortega said it is the goal of this Program to raise at least \$40 million dollars in surcharges for the renovation of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The renovations should be completed by the centennial celebration of July 4, 1986.

The Treasury is offering a 1986 half dollar which will be emblematic of the contributions of immigrants to America, a silver dollar which depicts Ellis Island and its use as a gateway to America, and a five-dollar gold coin which will honor and feature the Statue of Liberty.

Mrs. Pope indicated that this will be the first time the Statue will be featured on U.S. coinage. All three coins will be legal tender, and will be offered in proof and uncirculated condition.

The coins will be available in various set combinations, priced from \$7.50 for the single half dollar, \$24.00 for the silver dollar, and \$175.00 for the gold piece. Each coin will be encapsulated and presented in an attractive presentation (jewel-type) case.

Mrs. Ortega said, "These coins, will afford all Americans the opportunity to support this historic effort by purchasing something which is truly unique and has lasting value."

The bill allows for a "pre-issue discount" on all orders received prior to the issuance of such coins. It is expected that coins will begin to be available around the first of November.

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